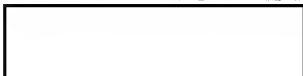


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18 January 1965



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Italy: [President Saragat is said to believe that Italy is in a period of political turmoil which is perhaps more dangerous than any it has passed through since World War II]

[Saragat conveyed this view to the US Embassy last week through his chief aide. It rests on the President's assumption that the dominant Christian Democratic (CD) party is in danger of disintegration, a process that would precipitate political instability. Such a situation, Saragat contends, would invite extremists on both the right and left to attempt imposing their own solutions.]

[The CDs, who have a National Council meeting scheduled for later this month, are in difficult straits because of personal animosities and differences over implementation of the coalition government's policy. Although the party may again manage to paper over its disunity, this will probably only provide a short breathing space]

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Burundi: An uneasy calm prevails in Burundi following the assassination of the premier, but there may yet be an outbreak of violence.

Although the widely respected King has appealed for calm and promised that justice will be done, the population in certain quarters of Bujumbura is said to be agitated. Large numbers of Hutus are also coming into town for the funeral which could become an occasion for violence.

A curfew in Bujumbura has been declared, and troops are patrolling the city in strength. The King has also asked Belgium to station troops on a stand-by basis at Kamembe airfield in neighboring Rwanda which could be called in to deal with an emergency.

There are still no good clues to the identity of the assassin. However, ten extremist Tutsis--including former prime minister Nyamoya--and the Minister of Telecommunications Ngunzu have been arrested. The Tutsi commander of the gendarmerie has also been replaced by a Hutu.

The King is reported to be considering naming another Hutu, Joseph Bamina, president of the country's only political party, as prime minister. Bamina has flirted with the radicals, but recently has assumed a middle-of-the-road position and has been critical of Burundi's alignment with the Chinese Communists and its support of the Congolese rebels.

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